

Ser. No. 10/632,046

Remarks

Claims 1-10 were pending in the application. Claims 1-10 were rejected. No claims were merely objected to and no claims were allowed. By the foregoing amendment, no claims are canceled, no claims are amended, and claims 11-15 are added. No new matter is presented.

Claims Rejections-35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1-5 and 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Becker et al. (US4749029). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Becker et al. discloses a unique construction of triangular planform, single-bolt panels. Each panel has a single embossment recess 33.2, 33.3 shown accommodating a bolt head. ridges 31.4/31.6/31.7 extend from support structure 31 toward the backside of the panel.

The Office action asserted, to the contrary, that protrusion of the standoffs would have been obvious "to make the post durable enough to handle the extreme environment... [and] for providing the correct gaps...for cooling purposes... [and] to use plural studs in order to provide greater and/or back-up holding support of the heatshield" This is conclusory, unsupported by proper citation, and contrary to the apparent express teaching of Becker et al.

The individual Becker et al bolts are not studs, let alone a plurality. Where on the unique panels of Becker et al. would these proposed additional bolts be positioned? New claims 11 and 14 identify the paragraph [0013] integral formation of the studs to further distinguish Becker et al's bolts. There has been no analysis under 35 USC 112 (6) regarding the means of claim 4.

New claim 12 identify the chambers around the studs (e.g., 90 in FIG. 1)

New claims 13 and 15 identify the frustoconical segment shape to further distinguish the Becker et al. triangular planform.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over DuBell et al. (US5758503) in view of Drobny (US4748806). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

DuBell et al.. discloses side rails in the form of "side walls"26, 28, 30. ***These are not taught as recessed relative to the standoffs.*** To the contrary, they are indicated as having dimensions effective to contact the shell 14. See col. 5, first paragraph, which does expressly

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identify recessing of the rib 46.

Drobny discloses a particular attachment configuration. Although the asserted motivation to combine is without citation and merely conclusory, the proposed combination does not yield or otherwise render unpatentable, the claimed invention.

The office action admitted a failure of the combination to disclose the protrusion of claim 1 and similar dimensions of dependent claims. It was asserted as obvious "to make the standoff have at least a height of 0.4 mm in order to make the post durable...[and] to determine the correct height of the post to provide the correct spacing for cooling purposes of the shield... [and] to determine the optimum or workable rail spacing around the perimeter of the panel." this is conclusory. The asserted optimization of post (presumably spacer) height does not yield the gap of claim 4 or the particular associated differential protrusion of claim 1. The basic teaching of Dubell et al. is against any recessing of the side rail and associates gap between the rail and shell (thus the correct rail spacing that would be determined is zero).

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1-15 are in condition for allowance. Please charge any fees or deficiency or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account of record.

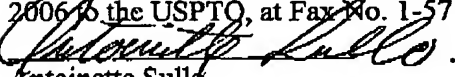
Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted this 21st day of August, 2006 to the USPTO, at Fax No. 1-571-273-8300.


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